



International Chemistry Olympiad Steering Committee Meeting

Thailand, 2017 Jan 11-15

Members of Steering Committee

Elected members:

- I-Jy Chang, Taiwan (2016), Chair
- Fung Fun Man, Singapore (2016)
- Alexandr Gladilin, Russia (2015)
- Cecilia Hernandez, USA (2015)
- JL Kiappes, USA (2016)
- Peter Wothers, UK (2016)

Co-opted:

- Carlos M. Castro-Acuña (Mexico)
- Khalid Mohammed Khan (Pakistan)
- Savita Ladage (India)

Ex officio:

- Elizbar Elizbarashvili, Georgia (2016)
- Ekasith Somsook, Thailand (2017)
- Martin Putala, Slovakia (2018)
- Petr Holzhauser, Czech Republic (2018)
- Anne Symczak, France (2019), Absent
- Nobuhiro Kihara, Japan (2021)
- Gabor Magyarfalvi, Hungary, Past Chair

Agenda point

Jan 11-12, Arrivals, pick up of draft Preparatory Problems

Jan 13, Friday 9:00 – 11:00 Section 1

1. Introduction, opening
2. Discussion with the Scientific Committee

Dr. Piniti Ratananukul, the Chair of the Scientific Committee and many task authors have joined the meeting.

- SC Chair stated the duties and detail procedures for the Scientific Committee, such as
 1. The need to use university students test the problems (especially practical tasks: and use the experimental results as a gauge for the actual marking scheme)
 2. It is important to keep the practical scores in each lab, compartmentalize the scores (mean/s.d.) to the jury (prefer print outs). Only after the fairness of the practical task is satisfied, students' results are then distributed to the mentors.
 3. Mentors to receive all results the night before the arbitration, look through, and submit about discussion problems on the same night. The advantage is that authors can anticipate how busy they will be in arbitration.
 4. Grading must have no double penalty. Have provision to have some flexibility for arbitration.
 5. If Dr Piniti is also a task author, he should appoint an impartial person to break serious disputes in arbitration.
- Peter Wothers (PW) commented that the jury meeting is hard-pressed for time, we need someone experienced to guide/lead the discussion.

- Dr. Piniti suggests the use of a software program that works like “slack” and a “whatsapp chat group” for mentors during the Jury meeting.
- SC supports the use of this software before the jury meeting (meet with the authors), but perhaps not during the jury meeting.
- It is suggested and strongly encouraged that the host accommodate some experts (~6 SC members) to perform practical and theoretical tasks, to test out from our perspective and give inputs. (3 days prior to IChO).
- It is suggested that Jury meeting 1 and 2 should be chaired by a person that is experienced and familiar with the task. Such practice has been in place since 2014.
- It is recommended that during the students’ safety instruction, translation must be provided to non-English speaking students.

Discussion about the Prep problems

- The draft preparatory problems were discussed. The general concerns were too broad fields of difficulty and too many advanced topics.
- Detail discussion of each questions were conducted by SC members with authors.
- Tienthong Thongpanchang (Tien), secretary of the Sci Comm met with the authors and discussed on the feedback provided by the SC.

2nd Meeting with Tien (16:30 – 17:30 Jan 14, Extra section)

- Finalized advanced topics, complied with the regulations.
- Formula table, periodic table, data sheet (IR, NMR bands/ frequency range table) in the preparatory problems should be identical to that in the July exam.

11:00 – 12:00 Section 2

3. Report from future Olympiads:

2018 Czech Republic and Slovakia

- Date confirmed: July 19-29, 2018
- Arrivals of teams at Vienna or Bratislava airport
- Departure from Prague
- Accommodation: Mentors - Hotel Crowne Plaza (Slovak), Diplomat Prague (Czech)
- Student: Comenius University dormitory (Slovak), Orea Hotel, Pyramida Prague (Czech)
- Both practical and theory exam will take place in Bratislava, Jury meetings to proceed in Prague

2019 France

Anne has prepared a ppt, I-Jy presented it.

- Venue: Paris
- Date confirmed: July 21-30, 2019
- Accommodation for mentors unconfirmed, student volunteers confirmed, recruited
- Volunteers (100+) confirmed sign-up
- It is noted that attendance at SC meeting (both January and July) by a representative from France is obligated. The same applies to all confirmed future hosts. This is to facilitate and feedback knowledge and discussion for future hosts.

2020 No host so far. Needs attention to all participating countries.

2021 Japan

- Venue: Osaka
- No fancy hotels for mentors and students
- Lower cost/budget will be calibrated to achieve minimum cost of hosting
- Last week of July is the university exam, there are no volunteers available to assist the IChO in July (as anticipated). Propose arrival day 31 July, opening 1 August
- No need to vote on the dates of IChO 2021, Nobu to meet with Japanese organizing committee on the dates, and will announce to the Jury in Summer 2017

14:00 – 18:00 Section 3

4. Review venues (Opening and Closing Ceremony, Laboratory, theory exam rooms, student accommodation)
 - Opening and Closing Ceremony will be in Prince Mahidol Hall inside the Salaya campus of Mahidol University. The Hall is sufficient for both ceremonies.
 - Laboratory is under renovation. Equivalent working space for each students will be provided.
 - Theory exam rooms will be in large multipurpose rooms with a desk for each student.
 - Student accommodation will be in a hotel about 30 min-drive away from Salaya campus. All guides and students stay in the same hotel. 2 students to share a room. Minibar and hotel bar will not be available to students. Hotel has large outdoor field and swimming pool for student's activities. Lifeguard must be provided.

Jan 14, Saturday

8:30 – 9:15 Section 4

5. Review venues (discussion and meeting rooms, mentor accommodation)
 - Century Park Hotel in Bangkok will accommodate mentors. Sufficient rooms for discussion and meeting. Wifi could be boosted for the event.

10:00 – 12:00 Section 5

6. Report from Georgia
 - Tentative final report was distributed to SC.
 - SC recommended 2 reports, one published for public, one for SC and for future host. The one for public, student score should be anonymous or code only and no student photos.
 - Need to revise the countries that attended.
 - No country ranking.
 - Delete all email list from report.

7. Detail discussion on IChO 2017

Day-by-day schedule

Day 1

- Students should not wait a long time at the Century Park Hotel for mentors
- If possible, have separate bus from airport to student hotel, mentors to Century Park Hotel (only for those who arrive on the day of registration).

Day 2

- 9 m opening ceremony, 2 h wait for HRH Princess (by royal law) so all of us have to be there at 7 m, departure from hotel at 6 m. (reconfirmed by Thailand team)
- Wifi should be provided for the 2 h waiting time
- No performance at opening ceremony, to shorten the time
- Lunch at Salaya campus, 11- 1pm.
- 1-2 pm: lab inspection, leave at ~2 pm.
- SC Suggested that the Bus should leave when is full. No designated buses for local, short transportation.
- 4-6 pm: meet with authors.
- Suggest to have SC members to moderate the problem discussion, as an interface between Jury & Scientific Committee.
- Suggest to distribute problems in thumb-drive to mentors ASAP.

Day 3

- Better to bring safety instruction, science practical briefing and apparatus to student hotel, rather than transport all students to the labs.
- Schedule a happy hour session for mentors.

Day 4

- Mentor to receive tasks AM (breakfast), meeting with authors (Face-to-face) early PM (1-5pm meet with authors).
- Propose 2nd jury to begin at 8pm

Day 5

- Schedule a happy hour session for mentors.

Day 6

- Reunion party at Salaya campus.
- Possible for one country to sit together.

Day 7

- Distribute theory results early that day ASAP after grading.
- Distribute students' **practical results ONLY** After 3rd jury meeting.
- Mentors go through and feedback to authors ASAP which queries they had.

Day 8

- Arbitration as needed.

Day 9

- Sandwich for all (leave hotel at 11am).

- Early closing ceremony, starts at noon. (Concerts at Prince Mahidol hall that evening)
- Awards in groups, to save time.
- Announce the awards in increasing ranking, start with the last honorable mention.
- Name the country, followed by student's name during announcement of winners to minimize miscommunication.
- Include 5 min slots for IUPAC President (Natasha) to give a speech but not to award top students.
- HRH princess awards the top three students, and the best of Theory and Practical.
- Last 5 min for SC chair for acknowledgment speech.
- Certificates should give to head mentors after closing ceremony.
- Farewell banquet starts at 5 pm, provide music, eg live band, dance floor to set the mood.

Day 10

- Departures

13:00 – 15:00 Section 6

8. Review expected participation countries for IChO 2017

Urge each country to register long-time contact persons at SC website (www.ichosc.org). More than one contact is possible and advisable.

9. Observing and new countries for IChO 2017

- Philippines: invited, will participate with students.
- Qatar: invited, 2nd year observing.
- United Arab Emirates: invited with condition.
- Luxembourg: invited, 1st year observing.
- Oman: invited.
- Kuwait: Like Liechtenstein, still pay full fees, but only permit to attend if there is at least one student and mentors with previous experience.
- Egypt, Sri Lanka: Mentors stated no funds for attending IChO, no invitation for IChO 2017.
- Kosovo, Iraq: No show in 2016 and no new application. Will not consider for 2017.
- Host country should invite 1 person for previous Olympiad and 2 observers for the next 2 confirmed hosts (in total: reserve 5 spaces) for free.
- If confirmed future host (>2 years from competition) wish to bring >2 SO, it is possible but must pay full SO fee of 1500 USD.
- SC members that are not part of his/her country delegation nor participate guest program may registered with fee of 1500 USD.

10. Financial support

- Total fund 6500 USD (2000 carry over from Georgia (remainder 1550 from Japan/IUPAC and donation 450 from Korea), 2500 from IUPAC, 2000 from CSJ)
- Application ends on March 31, 2017
- Email voting
- Send out letters to all countries
- Use the same form sent out in 2016

- Be firm with the message, **no consideration will be entertained if requests are submitted after the deadline, March 31, 2017.**
- All applications will be considered fairly.
- Only 6 elected SC members and ex-officio, future approved host (13 this year) to vote.

15:30 – 17:30 Section 7

11. General Business

- Review of Regulation. Will propose to international jury in summer 2017. Proposed changes are in the appendix.
- **How to solve no host in future:**
 - It is the SC's responsibility to secure the future of IChO.
 - Invite regular participants who has not hosted an IChO for a meeting with SC, check how SC can help to solve the issues. Announce in 2017 and start meeting in 2018.
 - For 2020, Chair will write to China, Denmark, Philippines, and Singapore.
- Web site
 - Current IChO host website could link to IChO SC website (www.ichosc.org).
 - Only put hyperlink if there is a future host official website confirmed
 - Adding statistical data on the website.

12. Conclusions, finalizing minutes

- The committee wanted to formally thank the organizers of the 49th IChO for their hospitality and the tremendous efforts they are taking to ensure a successful competition in 2017.

Minutes created by: Fung Fun Man

Finalized by: Chang I-Jy and Ekasith Somsook